

P 301634Z APR 03  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY  
CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ASMARA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY  
HMSNG WASHINGTON DC//DIA WASHINGTON DC/DHO-7// PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR INTEL VAHINGEN GE//ECJ2/ECJ3/ECJ5// PRIORITY  
JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOOC/HSE// PRIORITY  
USCINTRANS INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//J2-J/HSE// PRIORITY  
COMSOCENT MACDILL AFB FL//SOCJ2/HSE// PRIORITY  
COMUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2// PRIORITY  
USSTRATCOM OFFUTT AFB NE//J5/J2/HSE// PRIORITY  
US SURVEY DIV SHAPE BE PRIORITY  
CDRUSAREUR DCSINT HEIDELBERG GE//AEAGB-IAD// PRIORITY  
UDITDUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE PRIORITY  
USAREUR ACE DARMSTADT GE PRIORITY  
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J2/J5-EUR// PRIORITY  
NGIC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//IANG FMC// PRIORITY  
NGIC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//IANG FMC// PRIORITY  
SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-ISA// PRIORITY  
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD//M112/S512HT// PRIORITY  
CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-JCH/HSE// PRIORITY  
CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL//SOJ2/HSE// PRIORITY  
CDRJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2/HSE// PRIORITY  
DIA WASHINGTON DC//IZTF// PRIORITY  
USDAO NAIROBI KE PRIORITY  
USDAO ADDIS ABABA ET PRIORITY  
USDAO ASMARA ER PRIORITY  
CJTF HOA PRIORITY  
HMSNG WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
SAFE WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 00374

E.O. 12958; DECL: 4/29/2013;  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [IZ](#) [SU](#)  
SUBJECT: RETURN OF SUDANESE BA'ATHISTS

REF: KHARTOUM 317

CLASSIFIED BY LAUREL STEELE, POLITICAL OFFICER, REASONS 1.5 B, D

1. (C) OVER 80 MEMBERS OF THE SUDANESE BA'ATH PARTY HAVE RETURNED FROM IRAQ TO SUDAN IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS. THE MOST PROMINENT SUDANESE BA'ATHIST AND FOUNDER OF THE PARTY IN SUDAN, BADR-ADDIN MUDATHIR, RETURNED, POST WAS TOLD, ON PRESIDENT OMAR AL-BASHIR'S PLANE FROM SYRIA, LANDING AT KHARTOUM'S MILITARY AIRPORT TEN DAYS AGO. HIS RETURN WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS, ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS WERE GIVEN.
2. (C) ANOTHER RETURNING SUDANESE REPORTED TO POST THAT SOME SUDANESE IN IRAQ HAD BEEN SHOT BY ANTI-SADDAM IRAQIS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE US. INVASION. OTHERS HAD FLED TO REFUGEE CAMPS ON THE IRAQ/SYRIA BORDER. PRESIDENT BASHIR HAD VISITED SYRIA TO HELP FACILITATE THEIR DEPARTURE.
3. (C) THE GOVERNMENT HAS REPORTEDLY ALLOWED THE RETURN OF THE SUDANESE BA'ATHISTS ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY NOT TAKE PART IN ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITY HERE. THE GOS IS LEERY OF PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF ANTI-US OR ANTI-BRITISH FEELINGS. IN THE BUILDUP TO THE IRAQ WAR, BA'ATHISTS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT GRAFFITI. NINE LOCAL BA'ATHISTS WERE ARRESTED AND ARE STILL IN JAIL. MUDATHIR HIMSELF IS IN HIS SEVENTIES AND ILL, AND PRESUMABLY PRESENTS LITTLE PROBLEM TO THE GOS.
4. (U) BACKGROUND: THE BA'ATH PARTY IN SUDAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN SMALL, WITH PROBABLY NO MORE THAN 1,000 MEMBERS. BUT BECAUSE IRAQ BACKED IT FINANCIALLY, THERE WAS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SUDANESE BA'ATH PARTY HAVING AN IMPACT THAT BELIED ITS

MEAGER NUMBERS. THE PARTY RECRUITED HEAVILY AMONG STUDENTS (OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS TO IRAQ) AND IN PERIPHERAL AREAS, LIKE NUBA, AND AMONG THE AFRICAN TRIBES. IN 1990, 26 BA'ATHIST MILITARY OFFICERS WERE EXECUTED IN KHARTOUM AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL COUP ATTEMPT.

RAGSDALE